United Nations S/2012/226

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 April 2012
English
Original: French

Letter dated 16 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Solemn Declaration of 15 April 2012 of the National Conference of Political Stakeholders in Mali (Conférence des Forces vives du Mali), held in Ouagadougou, under the auspices of His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaore, Mediator of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pedro Der **Kogda**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The National Conference of Political Stakeholders in Mali, meeting in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, under the auspices of His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaore, President of Burkina Faso and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Mediator for the Mali crisis;

Welcoming the framework agreement of 6 Apr. 012 on the implementation of the solemn pledge made by the Chair of the National Committee for the Promotion of Democracy and State-Building (Comité National de Redressement de la Démocratie et de la restauration de l'Etat (CNRDRE)) on 1 April 2012 to restore constitutional order;

Determined to contribute to the implementation of the framework agreement of 6 April 2012 by establishing transitional institutions;

Firmly committed to the search for a lasting solution to the conflict in the North of Mali, adopts the present Declaration, which reads as follows:

1. On the situation in the North of Mali

- Demands the immediate restoration of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Mali;
- Appeals urgently to ECOWAS and the international community to provide emergency humanitarian aid to the populations of the North of Mali, and urges them to provide those populations with increased humanitarian assistance and to support the creation of a humanitarian assistance fund;
- Recommends that the Mediator immediately initiate talks between the armed groups of the North of Mali and the transitional authorities in order to ensure a cessation of hostilities and a return of refugees and displaced persons;
- Appeals to ECOWAS to help Mali restore its territorial integrity;
- Calls on the armed groups of the North of Mali to immediately cease all armed violence and abuse and to seek solutions to their concerns through republican mechanisms;
- Reminds the armed groups of the North of Mali that they have an obligation to protect civilian populations and to fully respect human rights, and calls on them to immediately cease all violence against women and children;

2. On the institutional management of the transition

- Recommends, in the light of the exceptional circumstances, and in order to ensure an efficient establishment of the transitional institutions in accordance with the Constitution of 25 February 1992 and the framework agreement of 6 April 2012 and the stability of institutions, that the issue of the Transitional President be settled in accordance with the provisions of the framework agreement;
- Taking note of the resignation of the Prime Minister, recommends that a Prime Minister be appointed in accordance with the provisions of the framework

agreement of 6 April 2012. The formal appointment decision will be taken by the interim President of the Republic;

- Recommends the strict application of the provisions of the framework agreement of 6 April 2012;
- Urges, for the establishment of the Government of national unity provided for in the framework agreement of 6 April 2012, the creation of ministerial departments responsible for humanitarian affairs and issues specific to the Sahel-Saharan region;
- Recommends that the length of the transition be determined by the consultative forum of national political stakeholders (Cadre de concertation des forces vives) contemplated in point 3, taking into account the restoration of territorial integrity and the technical evaluation of the electoral process;
- Stresses the need to create a secure and universally accepted electoral register, in order to guarantee the organization of free, transparent and democratic elections;
- Recommends that the main actors involved in the transition (the Transitional President, the Prime Minister, the members of the Government and the members of CNRDRE) not be candidates for the presidential election;
- Commends CNRDRE for its renewed commitment to support the institutional normalization process;
- Stresses the urgent need to strengthen the operational capacities of the army in order to ensure that it can fulfil its sovereign mission of defending the national territory and protecting persons and property;
- Welcomes the contribution of the Malian diaspora to the peace efforts in Mali;

3. On the monitoring and evaluation mechanism

- Recommends the establishment of a consultative forum of national political stakeholders, under the auspices of the Mediator, which will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the framework agreement of 6 April 2012 and the transition road map, as well as the regular functioning of the transitional institutions.

4. Acknowledgements

The Conference of National Political Stakeholders in Mali expresses its profound gratitude and highest appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaore, President of Burkina Faso and ECOWAS Mediator in the Malian crisis, for his responsiveness, hospitality and tireless efforts to help bring peace to Mali, and reiterates its support for him to pursue his efforts.

The Conference also extends its sincere thanks to the current Chair of ECOWAS, His Excellency Mr. Alassane Ouattara, and to all the Heads of State and Government of the Community for their ongoing efforts to promote peace in Mali.

Done at Ouagadougou, 15 April 2012

The Conference